

## **Catawba County Emergency Medical Services**

### **Medical Examiner Transports**

This guidelines describes how Catawba County EMS will request a medical examiner; dispatch a unit for transport of a ME Case, transportation of the ME case, and all associated documentation.

- Catawba County EMS will make contact with the medical examiner in cases deemed suspicious, such as any patient less than or equal to 59 years old without medical history.
  - Prior to contacting the Medical Examiner the EMS crew will gather pertinent information related to the situation.
  - The Paramedic on the scene will relay the following information to the Medical Examiner:
    - A history of the present illness or the mechanism of injury.
    - The patient's demographic information (name, age, date of birth, address, relative, etc...).
    - The patient's pertinent past medical history, medications, allergies, and family physician
    - The name and contact information for the law enforcement officer handling the investigation.
  - EMS employees will not speculate on the cause of death or attempt to investigate the situation for the Medical Examiner.
- Catawba County EMS staff will notify the Communications Center to page the Medical Examiner.
  - Once the Communications Center has the Medical Examiner on the telephone a patch will then be established between the EMS staff and the Medical Examiner to ensure the conversation is recorded.
- After initial response by the crew and contact of the Medical Examiner, if it is determined that an investigation is required, the crew shall clear the scene.
- Catawba County EMS does not routinely transport bodies. The Medical Examiner is responsible for arranging for the transportation of these bodies. Occasionally, exceptions will be made to expedite opening of a roadway, etc...
- Exception Procedure:
  - The EMS Manager, Training Officer or Shift Supervisor authorizes the transport.
  - Catawba County EMS will only transport a body from the scene where the death occurred to the appropriate in-county hospital as instructed by the Medical Examiner. Upon arrival at the receiving hospital the EMS crew will deliver the body to a location determined by the Medical Examiner.

## **Catawba County Emergency Medical Services**

- A Medical Examiner Form must be completed in addition to the PCR and attached to the electronic record. The original form is to be given to the on duty Shift Supervisor.
- Catawba County EMS will not transport severely burned or decomposed bodies under any circumstance.